

Feb. 13, 1975

Dr. Al Schwartz, Dean
Pitzer College
Claremont, Ca 91711

Dear Dean Schwartz,

This letter is in behalf of myself and about a dozen graduate students in the Government and International Relations departments at Claremont Graduate School, to thank you for bringing Dr. Alastair Davidson to the Claremont Colleges. While only one or two of us actually signed up for his courses, which were on the undergraduate level, according to the catalogue, six of us attended almost every lecture given in Political Science #171, and a number attended on a less regular basis both this course and his seminar on Existentialism. We furthermore benefitted from his outstanding lectures on Antonio Gramsci as part of Government #364 at the Graduate School, and from his numerous informal discussions with students and faculty members outside of school.

Dr. Davidson's expertise and subject matter were for me perfect compliments to courses taught by Dr. Marquis in Comparative Politics, and by Dr. Rodman in Political Theory. While the Claremont Colleges do an admirable, even outstanding job in presenting the world views and ideologies that are the motor forces of our own present government and economic system, a scholar sincerely interested in understanding political theory, governments, economic systems, cultures and societies outside of Southern California needs a much broader perspective. A scholarly and critical introduction to Marxism, such as Dr. Davidson offered, is invaluable, both in understanding the non-capitalist and anti-capitalist societies of the world, and in broadening our perspectives, as we seek to understand our own society. Graduate students sitting in on his courses, while sometimes disagreeing with his personal views, were impressed with Dr. Davidson's wit, his outstanding scholarly background, with his honesty with his students in expressing his own views and ideology and noting them as such, yet with his promotion of a real dialogue among students, and his respect for diverse views. It is a pity that he, or someone like him, cannot be made a permanent addition to the Claremont University community.

Again, our thanks for bringing this outstanding scholar to the Claremont Colleges.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Adair III

Douglas G. Adair III
Government department, Claremont Graduate School